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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 1 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a document prepared by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding violations by Russia of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 1 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Information regarding the violations by the Russian Federation of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement during July and August 2009

Since the Russian Federation's military aggression in August 2008 and subsequent occupation of Georgia's territories, the Russian occupation forces have been exercising an effective control over Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region, Georgia.

Throughout this period, Russia remains in grave violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, as well as its multilateral and bilateral international obligations. Russia also remains in severe breach of every provision of the ceasefire agreement signed on 12 August 2008.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of Russia's violations of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement.

- On 3 July 2009, a report that the Investigation Committee of the Russian Prosecutor's Office had completed the investigation and allegedly confirmed the culpability of the Georgian authorities in "large-scale murdering and genocide" was released. By statements of this kind Russia tries to influence the activities of the European Union independent commission to determine the reasons for the Russia-Georgia war, 2008.

- On 13 July, President of the Russian Federation D. Medvedev arrived in Tskhinvali, in the occupied territory of a sovereign State, in blatant violation of Georgia's State border, which is a complete contravention of the norms and principles of international law.

- On 20 July, Minister of Emergency Situations S. Shoigu, Minister of Internal Affairs R. Nurgaliev and Prosecutor-General Y. Chaika arrived in Tskhinvali, accompanied by employees of the Prosecutor's Office.

- On 22 July, servicemen of the Russian occupation troops illegally deployed in Abkhazia, Georgia together with the proxy regime's armed gangs detained 27 passengers on their way from the village of Otobaia, Gali district to the village of Ganmukhuri, Zugdidi district. The Russian occupants accused the detainees of attempts to illegally cross the so-called "state border" of Abkhazia and to transport smuggled goods because they did not hold Russian or "Abkhazian" passports. The detained passengers were released only after they pledged to obtain so-called Abkhazian passports.

- On 28 July, paratroop commander Lieutenant General V. Shamanov stated during a press conference that a subdivision of the Minor Air Forces (light aviation) of the Russian Federation will soon appear above South Ossetia and Abkhazia. He also said that low and average altitudes, which are not accessible to air defence systems, might be exploited by Russian unmanned aerial

vehicles (UAVs) to trace enemy in their battlefields and make corrections in firing tactics.

– On 29 July, the villages of Zemo Khviti and Zemo Niqozi and a Georgian police checkpoint located nearby came under fire from the Russian-occupied territory of Georgia — Tskhinvali. The intense fire lasted for an hour and involved rifles, mortars and machine guns. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia tried to get in touch with the Russian side via the hotline set up under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. However, the Russian occupants avoided contact.

– The occupation forces of the Russian Federation are constructing a military aerodrome on the territory adjacent to the historic palace of Mukhranbatoni, now serving as a nunnery of St. Monk Aleksi (Shushania), located in the village of Ikoti in the occupied Akhalgori region. The construction of the military aerodrome at this location endangers the existence of this significant historic monument.

– On 31 July, the Head of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia, V. Pronichev, informed the leader of the proxy regime, E. Kokoity, that Russian border guards had begun performing their duties across the "border" with Georgia.

– On 12 August 2009, on the anniversary of the signing of the six-point ceasefire agreement, V. Putin arrived in the occupied Abkhazian region and held meetings with the proxy authorities of Sokhumi in blatant violation of Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The Georgian side expressed its strong protest at the illegal activities of Russia. The subsequent notes regarding the above-mentioned facts have been conveyed to the Russian side via the Embassy of Switzerland in Tbilisi, Georgia.